



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments



## COMMISSION FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN THE DALLAS/ FORT WORTH REGION

April 2014



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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Chairman Meadows

Transportation Commissioner Vandergriff

# PURPOSE & MISSION OF THE COMMISSION

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Chairman Meadows

# COMMISSION MECHANICS

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Marc Williams, TxDOT

# CHSR Recommended Guidelines

- Role of the Commission is to provide guidance to the Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT and project consultants as they relate to high-speed rail connecting the Dallas and Fort Worth areas, as well as public involvement considerations
- Also, assist with executive and legislative meeting opportunities for commission activities as needed
- Support for questions on the DFW CHSR and coordination on any public input or meeting requests from organizational/civic groups - Andrea Lofye, TxDOT Federal Affairs

## CHSR Recommended Guidelines (cont'd)

- Support for media-related questions - Becky Ozuna, TxDOT Media Relations (such as interview requests)
- Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region Web Page: <http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/committees/chsr-dfw.html>
- Recognize and understand the concurrent DFW-HSR environmental process and the role of that process in project decision-making

# REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON HIGH SPEED RAIL

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Michael Morris, NCTCOG



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# GRADE-SEPARATED HIGH SPEED RAIL FROM FORT WORTH TO HOUSTON

Commission for High-Speed Rail  
In the Dallas/Fort Worth Region

April 22, 2014





# NCTCOG Team Supporting TxDOT and the Commission

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Michael Morris, P.E. – Funding

Tom Shelton, P.E. – Lead Technical

Ken Kirkpatrick – Legal

Amanda Wilson – Legislative/Public Outreach



# **RTC Grade Separated High Speed Rail Policy**

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## **Three Station Concept**

**RTC stated policy indicates the preferred high speed rail Alignment in the Dallas-Fort Worth region will include three stations:**

**Downtown Fort Worth**

**Arlington with Access to DFW International Airport**

**Downtown Dallas**

**RTC Adopted As Part of Mobility Plan Long Range**

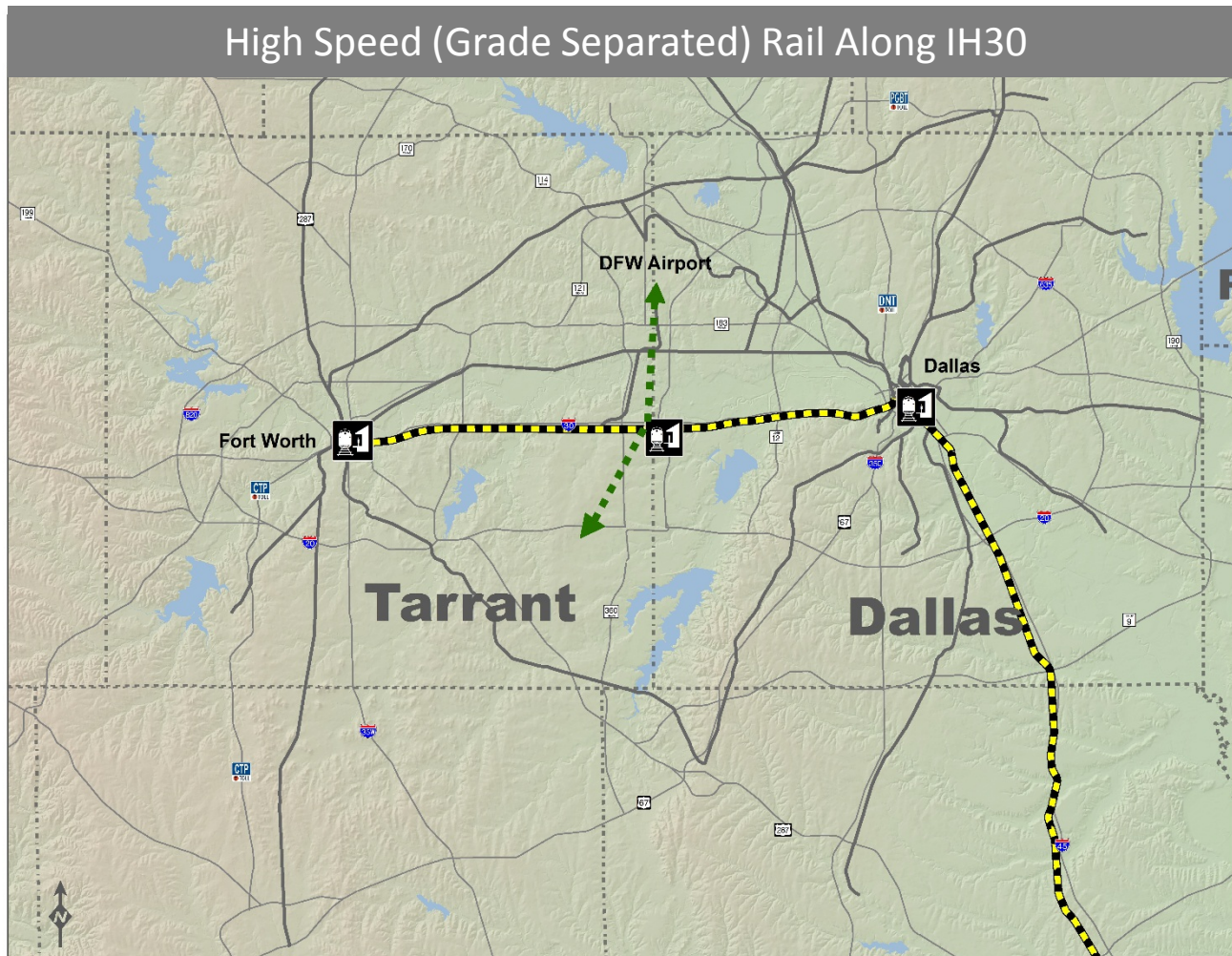
**Transportation Plan for North Central Texas (3/10/11; 6/13/13)**

**Importance of System Integration: “One Seat Ride”**

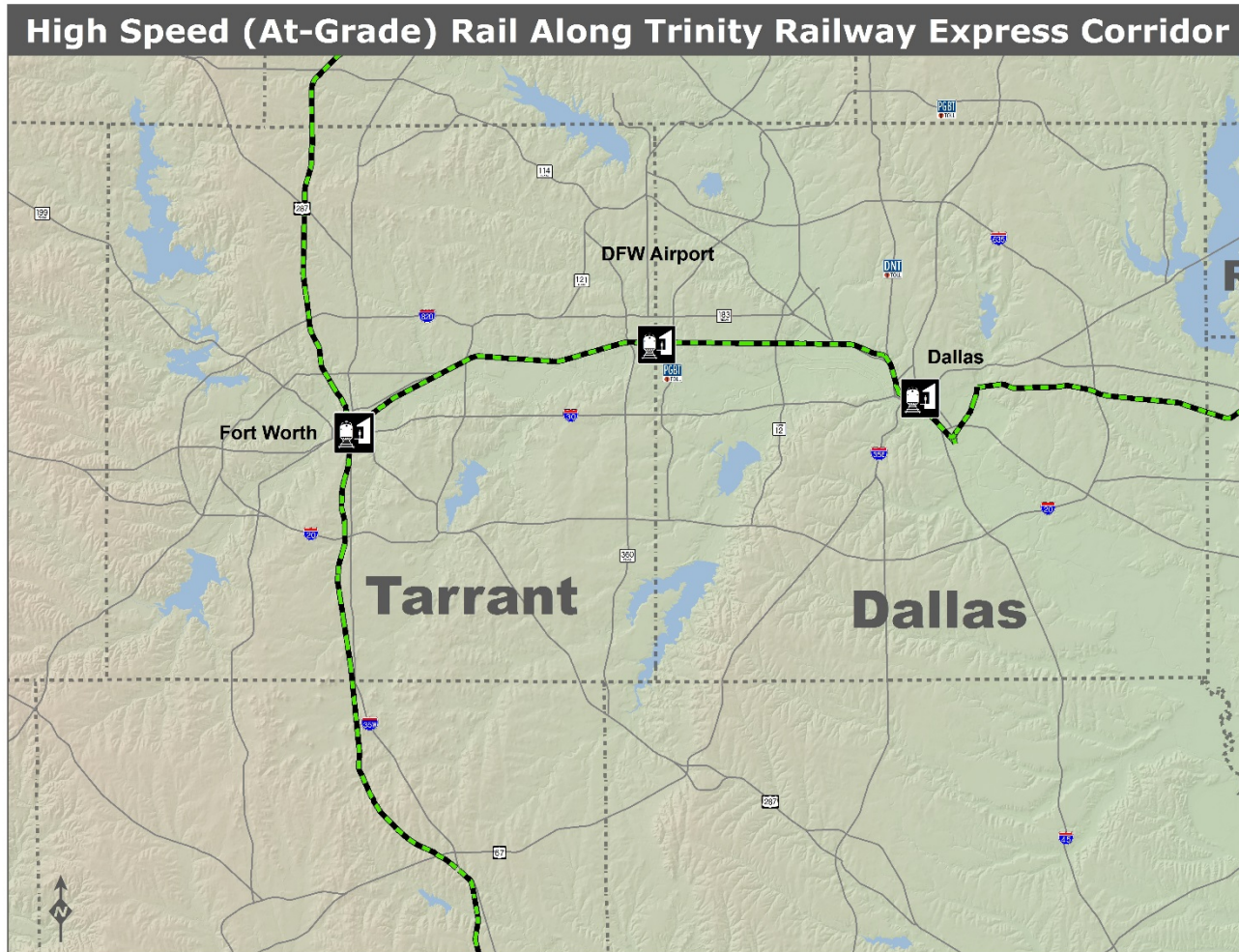
**Review all Options for Environmental Process**



# East/West Grade Separated High Speed Rail Along IH 30



# East/West At-Grade High Speed Rail Along TRE Corridor





# Possible Legislative Needs

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**TxDOT Needs all the Legal Ability to Implement High Speed Rail as They Have Roadways (e.g., Oversight, Procurement, Funding)**

**Economic Impact to Texas and State Value Capture (Special Event Trust)**

**Emphasis on a Federal Funding Commitment**



# **Future Discussion Topics (Assistance With Item 7)**

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**Business Components of High Speed Rail**

**Economic Impact**

**Local Government Economic Development Around  
Stations**

**Arlington Need for Regional Rail**

**Opportunity to be National Showcase**



# PASSENGER RAIL STUDIES OVERVIEW

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Travis Kelly, Texas Central Railway  
Erik Steavens, TxDOT

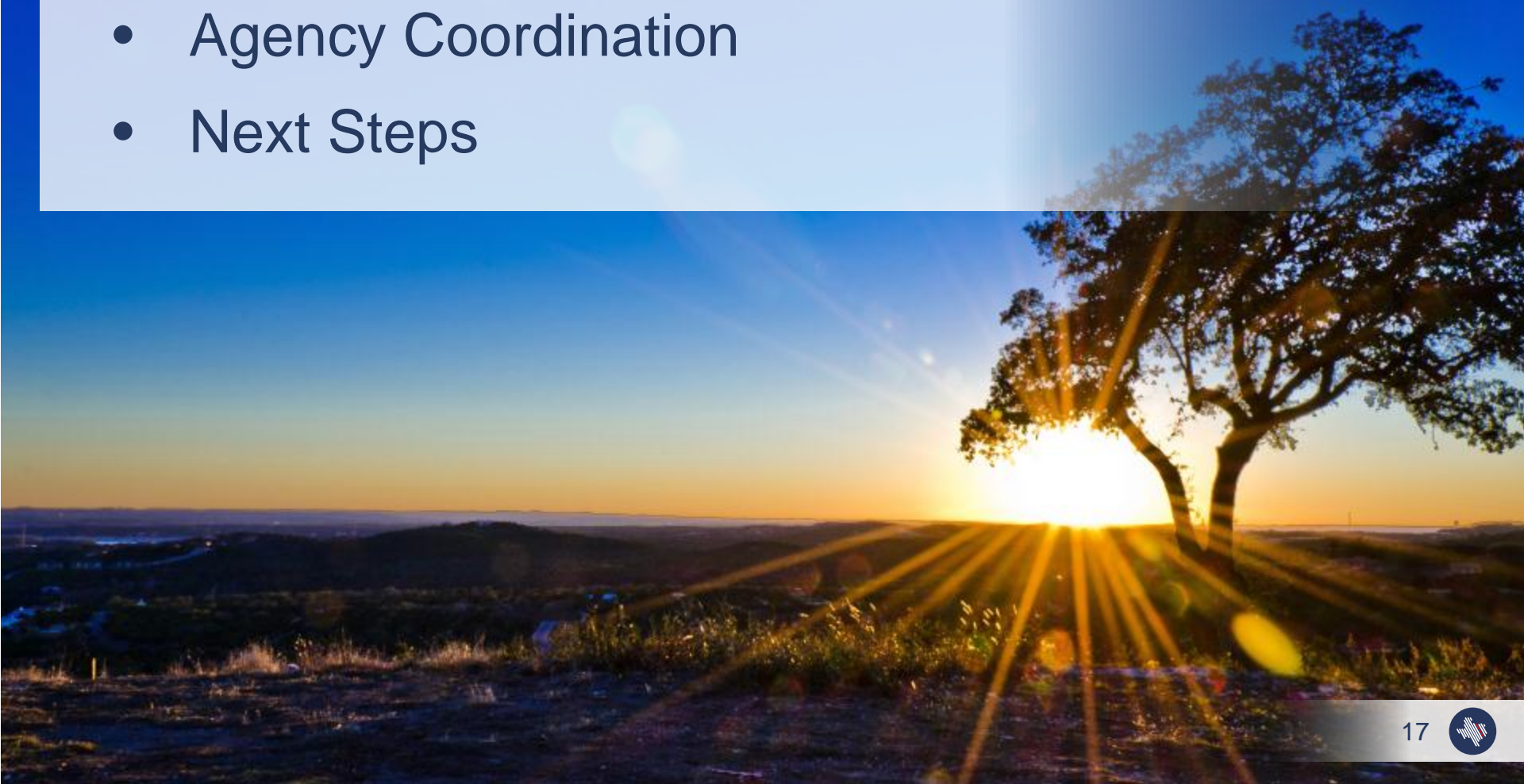
# Texas Central High-Speed Railway Project Update

*Travis Kelly, Texas Central Railway*





- Recent Developments
- Current Priorities
- Agency Coordination
- Next Steps





© JR Central 2013





# Recent Developments

- January 2014 – Two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed:
  - MOU 1 relates to the Dallas-Houston Environmental Impact Statement
    - Signed by the Federal Railroad Administration, TxDOT, TCR and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party environmental consultant
  - MOU 2 relates to the Fort Worth-Arlington-Dallas Environmental Impact Statement
    - Signed by the Federal Railroad Administration and TxDOT
- March 12 – Informal kick-off of TCR System Review
- March 19 – Formal kick-off of TCR EIS effort



# *Current Priority: Environmental Impact Statement*





# Environmental Impact Statement

## **FRA, TxDOT and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant are currently:**

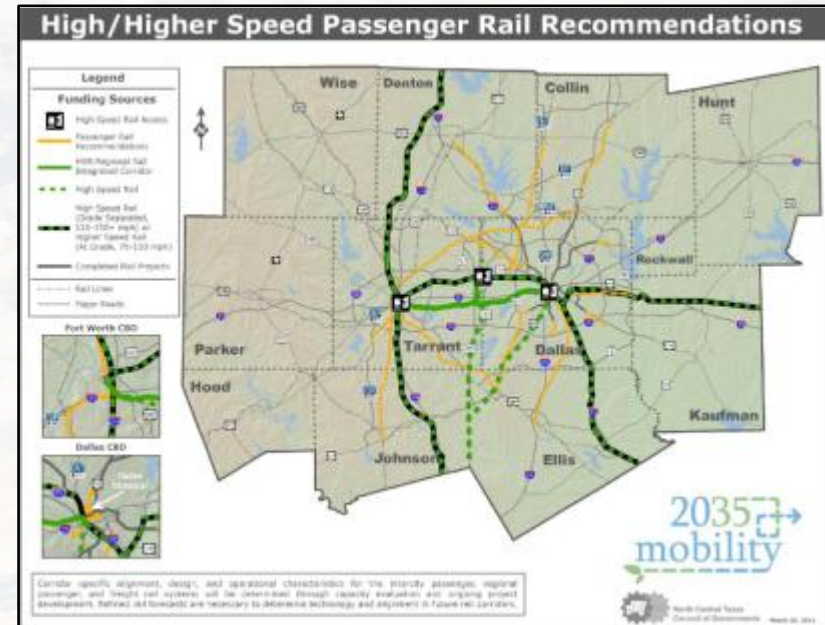
- Reviewing TCR's engineering and environmental analyses
  - Extensive studies completed over the last 4 years
  - Example: Houston Toad
- Developing a work scope and schedule for the EIS
  - Will determine overall schedule for EIS process
  - Will determine timing of public scoping meetings





# Coordination Among FRA, TxDOT, NCTCOG and TCR

- FRA and TxDOT: Lead Agencies for both EIS processes
- Areas of cooperation will include, among other items, the Dallas station location
- FRA, TxDOT, NCTCOG and North Texas High-Speed Rail Commission will play key roles in coordinating complementary EIS processes





# Next Steps

- Formal Kick-off of Safety Review – April 29-30
- EIS Notice of Intent – Likely in May/June, but at discretion of agencies
- Public Meetings – Organized and led by agencies
- Stakeholder and Community Outreach – Organized and led by TCR











## FORT WORTH TO DALLAS AND DALLAS TO HOUSTON PASSENGER RAIL STUDIES

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Erik Steavens, TxDOT



# Different kinds of service

		Speed (miles per hour)	Stops/ frequency
<b>Conventional rail</b> (mostly uses existing tracks)  		Maximum: 70-90 mph  Average: 45-60 mph	Stops 15 to 60 miles apart  3-6 trains/day each direction (no more than 12)
<b>Higher speed rail</b> (some dedicated tracks)  		Maximum: 110-125 mph  Average: 70-85 mph	Stops 30 to 90 miles apart  4-8 trains/day each direction (as many as 12)
<b>High speed rail</b> (fully dedicated tracks)  		Maximum: 165-220 mph  Average: 100-140 mph	Stops 50 to 100+ miles apart  12-24 trains/day each direction

**Common Attributes:** Single or double deck trains, stations with parking, operation on existing or dedicated tracks

# Overview of the Projects

- In 2011, TxDOT applied for \$18 million under ARRA for preliminary engineering and NEPA studies for Ft. Worth/Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail.
- FRA awarded \$15 million to TxDOT.
- High speed service (minimum top speed of 150 mph) to be considered for the corridor.
- In 2012, the Texas Central Railway (TCR) made a proposal to TxDOT to develop the Dallas to Houston (DAL-HOU) portion of the corridor.

## Two Unique Projects Created

- In 2013, TxDOT in conjunction with FRA and TCR developed a plan to undertake the NEPA process for the whole corridor.
  - FRA, with a third party consultant, will lead NEPA effort for DAL to HOU utilizing resources provided by TCR.
  - TxDOT will lead the NEPA study effort from Fort Worth to Dallas (DFW).
- MOUs signed by TxDOT, TCR, and FRA describing the projects and working relationship

# DFW Passenger Rail Study

- A Passenger Rail Service will be planned and evaluated to operate between Dallas and Fort Worth.
- TxDOT will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to be approved by the Federal Rail Administration.
- This study will determine alignments, station locations, and standards for design and operations.
- The preferred alternative resulting from this work will then be ready for further development of the final design, ROW acquisition and construction.
- Study effort will be coordinated with FRA-led DAL-HOU EIS.

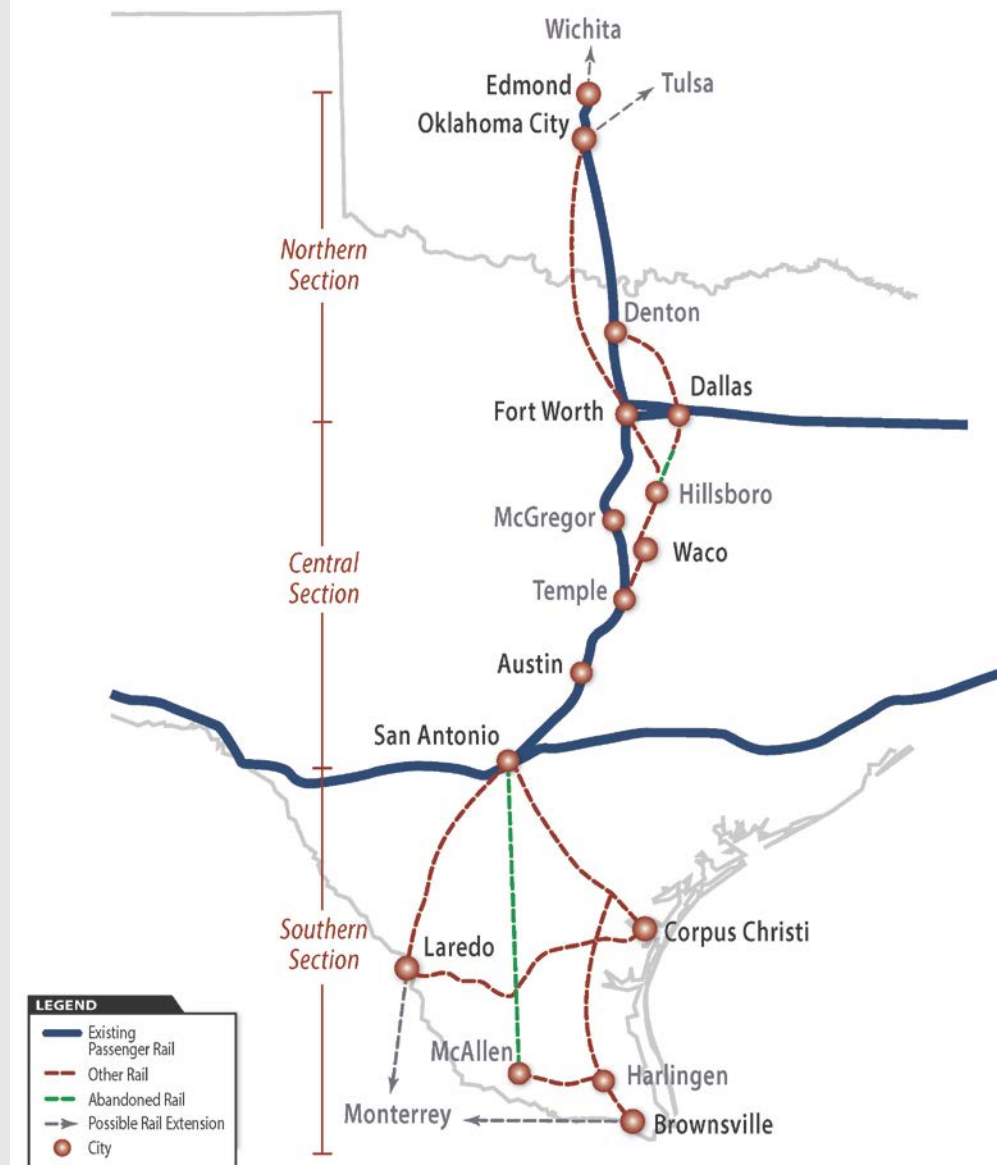


## TEXAS OKLAHOMA PASSENGER RAIL STUDY (TOPRS)

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# Why study rail between Oklahoma and South Texas?

- IH-35 is congested and will continue to get more congested as Texas' population and economy grow.
- Passenger rail service could fit the needs of many travelers and reduce demand on the state's roadways.
- Study will provide a blueprint for feasible rail improvements.



# A big question about our process

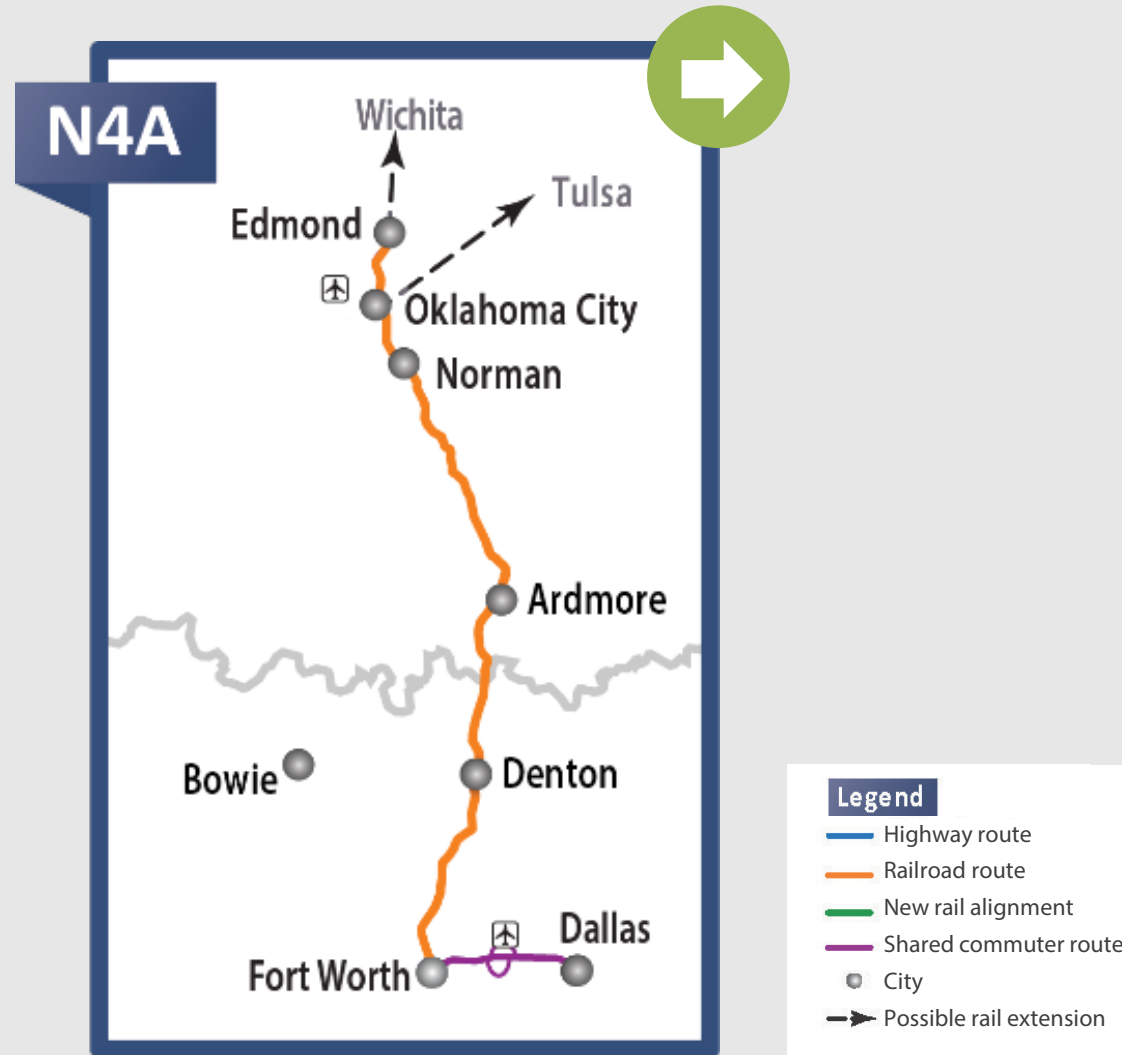
These questions will be answered through the study:

- Is improved passenger rail a good idea?
- What kind of passenger rail service is feasible?
- What are the costs, impacts, and benefits of passenger rail service?
- What cities would be served by passenger rail?

These questions will not be answered through the study:

- Where would new rail be constructed?
- What would the impacts be to specific properties?
- When would new service be available?
- Exactly where would stations be located?

# Recommended northern section route alternative

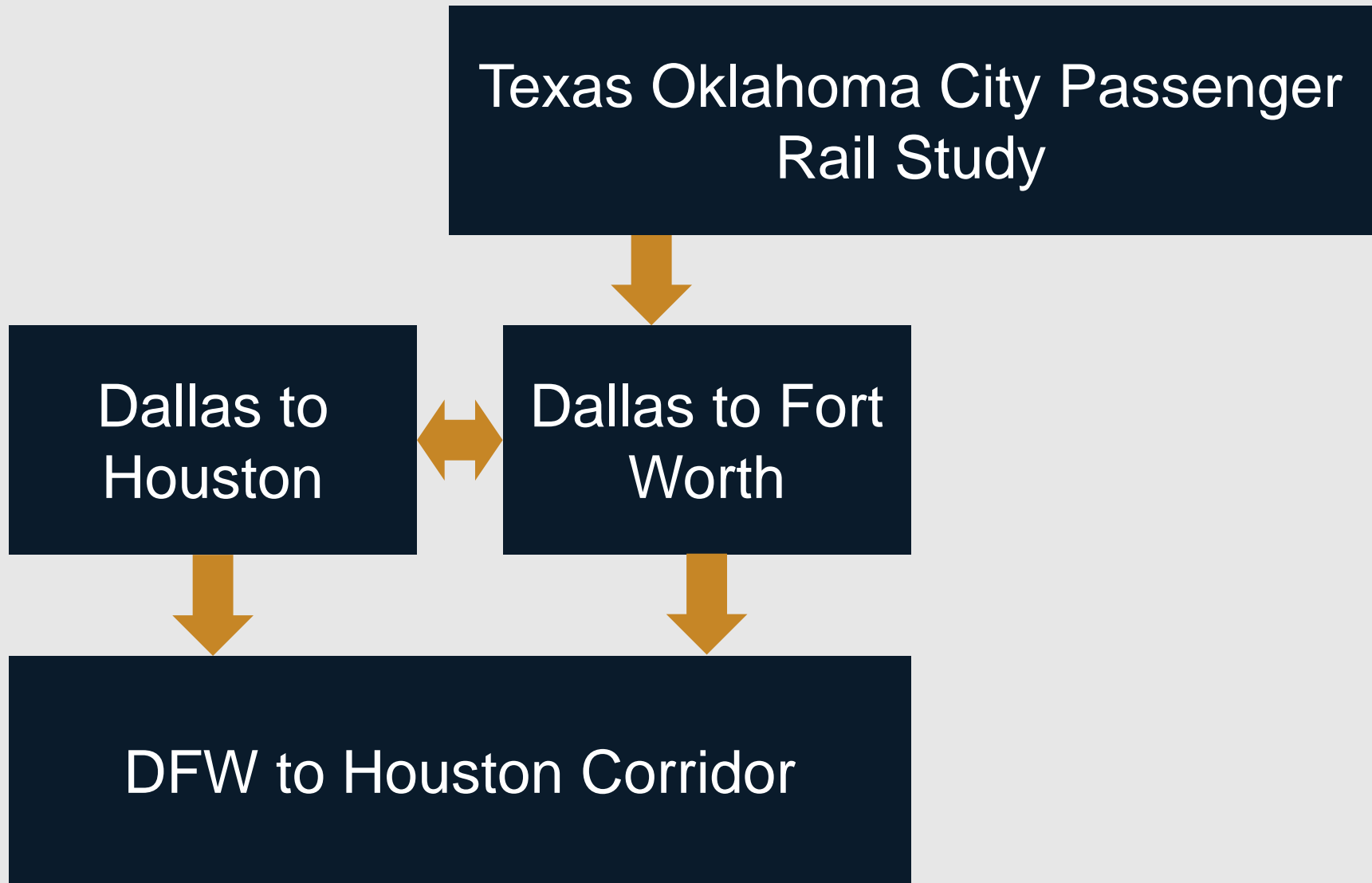




## Next steps and your input

- Prepare draft environmental impact statement
  - Project team will conduct detailed environmental analysis
  - Plan to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement in spring 2015

## Coordination of the Study Efforts



# Roles of the Participants

TOPRS

FRA

Approval

TxDOT

Contractor  
CH2MHill

TCR

Public

Participating,  
Commenting,  
and  
Reviewing

Fort  
Worth  
to  
Dallas

Approval

Contractor  
Parsons  
Brinckerhoff

Participating,  
Commenting,  
and  
Reviewing

Dallas  
to  
Houston

Approval

Participating,  
Commenting,  
and  
Reviewing

Contractor  
TBD

Participating,  
Commenting,  
and  
Reviewing

Questions?

# IMPROVING THE VALUE & VIABILITY OF RAIL

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TxDOT and NCTCOG Staff



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# OPEN DISCUSSION/ ACTION PLAN

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Chairman Meadows

# CLOSING REMARKS

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Chairman Meadows